

COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE

MINUTES

Oversight Committee

March 9, 2004

Sacramento County Farm Bureau

8970 Elk Grove Blvd.

Elk Grove, CA 95624

Minutes: Tina Lunt, Cosumnes River Task Force

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Tina Lunt opened the meeting at 7:00, Don Nottoli (Supervisor, 5th District), arrived shortly after and chaired the rest of the meeting. In attendance: Chuck Mitchell (Eldorado NF), Walt Hoppe (landowner), Surjit S. Toor (NRCS), Eric Bernsten (El Dorado/Georgetown Divide RCDs), Ken Oneto (landowner/ Farm Bureau Representative), Ron Lowry (Southeast Sacramento Agricultural Water Authority), Larry Rodriguez (Robertson-Bryan Inc.), and David Utterback (Reclamation District 800).

2. PROJECT UPDATES

Department of Conservation (DOC) Watershed Coordinator Grants - DOC announced that the Cosumnes River Watershed Coordinator position has been recommended for funding under the Watershed Coordinator Grant Program. The grant will be awarded pending review by the California Bay Delta Authority at its next public meeting scheduled for April 8, 2004.

Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority - The Authority held an open house in January to talk about their mission and potential projects. It was attended by over 50 people.

Lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers Floodplain Restoration Study – CALFED agreed to having the Authority take the lead on the revised Lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers Floodplain Restoration Study, which now includes a groundwater component. A contract will hopefully be put in place by May. The project will start in June and last for 28 months.

Stream Gauges – As a follow up to a question from previous meeting Tina asked Craig about the availability of data on the two gauges in the upper watershed. Specifically, if there is information on the gauging stations in the upper watershed that shows how long it takes for water to get from those stations to Michigan Bar and how many cfs or at what height the gauges in the upper watershed have to be at before people in the lower watershed should become concerned? Craig's response was, "We at the County had done some estimating of flood crest travel times from the Michigan Bar gage to Wilton and Hwy 99 (those travel times are reflected in the warning plan for the Cosumnes), but we have not looked at the times to peak from the upper gages. I recommend that the Task Force ask the River Forecast Center to exercise their now-augmented modeling tools to estimate warning times for the watershed."

Other Reports and Activities in and Around the Watershed

- Snow Survey Report – Chuck brought the Snow Survey Report in which showed, through the end of last month, 114-130% of normal, mainly from snow in the lower elevations.
- Watershed Education Day at the Legislature, April 15, 2004
- On March 9, the Nature Conservancy is hosting Jane Wolff, author of a fascinating new book about the Delta, for a talk, reception, and book-signing. For more information contact Mike Eaton at the Nature Conservancy.
- Sacramento Area Weed Management meeting at the Agricultural Commissioners office on March 11, 2004, 1-3 p.m.

ADJOURN - NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2004